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11<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Mr. Duncan Smith TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ 37976/23**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of adults with special needs who are currently waiting for dental treatment under anaesthesia at University Hospital Waterford; and the number of adults with special needs who are waiting more than six months.**

Dear Deputy Smith

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

*I have examined the matter and the following response outlines the current position.*

At present, the Waterford/Wexford dental department do not have access to facilities in University Hospital Waterford (UHW) for the provision of dental treatment under General Anaesthetic (GA) to adults with special needs. The dental department access a limited number of sessions in Aut Even Hospital, Kilkenny for the provision of this service. At present, there are 10 adults with special needs awaiting treatment under general anaesthesia and I can confirm that 4 of the 10 patients are waiting more than 6 months.

Please be assured that the HSE dental service monitors the waiting list on an ongoing basis in the overall context of available resources and prioritisation criteria.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Anna Marie Lanigan'.

**Anna Marie Lanigan**  
**Head of Service-Primary Care/Assistant National Director**  
**South East Community Healthcare**